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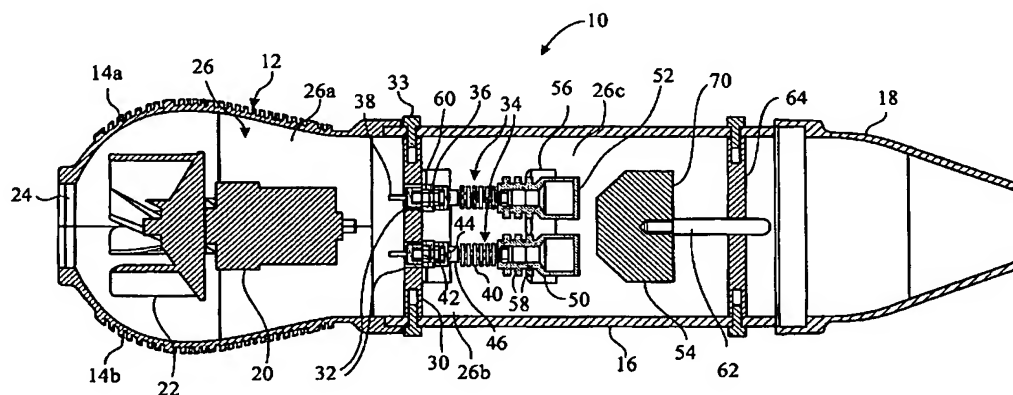
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(54) Title: **HAIRDRYER**



(57) Abstract: A hairdryer (10) has a housing (12, 16, 18) defining an air passage (26) and a cartridge receptacle (516). A battery (308) is adapted to power a motor (20) driving a fan (22). A burner (34) is in the air passage to heat the air flowing past. A manifold (570) connects two gas canisters (310), in a canister cartridge (310'), to a conduit (596) to provide combustible gas flow to the burner. A solenoid (592) operates a valve (586) in the conduit. Electronic control means pulses the solenoid between on and off positions of the valve and the control means is adapted to adjust the period of the on and off positions between conditions of no-flow and maximum-flow of gas in the conduit. The control means forms a regulator and the hair dryer has at least three modes of operation - on, off and cool shot. In the latter, a low flow of gas is supplied to the burner to keep it alight but not heat the air much. The canisters (310a,b) in the cartridge are side-by-side, each being substantially cylindrical, terminating in an outlet valve. Neck rings (520) and an end cap (526) keep the canisters together. When the cartridge is inserted, couplings (534, 536) on the cap and body engage and the outlet valves of the canisters are opened by valve openers (58) in the manifold. The cap closes the receptacle. The body comprises two cup elements (14', 18') and has a depending pistol-grip handle comprising two clamshells (502, 504). The clamshells each have an extension (511), which surrounds and connects to both of cup elements.



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